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The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

Letter dated 17 November 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter dated 6 November addressed to you by Mr. René Préval, President of the Republic of Haiti.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 43.

(Signed) Antonio **Rodrigue**
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 6 November 1998 from the President of Haiti addressed to the Secretary-General

Since the return to constitutional order, the Haitian State has benefited from the cooperation of the Organization of American States/United Nations International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH), which has sought to combine its analysis of the human rights situation in Haiti with constructive recommendations aimed at improving the functioning of the institutions which are crucial to the promotion and protection of individual rights and fundamental freedoms.

Despite the progress made, the task of institutional consolidation has not been completed. In that regard, the finalization of a document setting forth a strategy and detailed action plan for the application of the law on judicial reform promulgated recently should accelerate the process of strengthening the judicial system in the years to come. In that context, the expertise and experience of MICIVIH could facilitate the implementation of the reform and support the judicial system as it advances towards greater impartiality, increased independence and systematic respect for constitutional guarantees.

The Haitian State is also gratified by the progress achieved, with the assistance of MICIVIH, in making the people more aware of human rights. It considers it necessary to encourage these initiatives aimed at structuring society on the basis of civic values and conduct.

Consequently, the Government of Haiti wishes MICIVIH to continue its activities until 31 December 1999. However, in view of the changes that have taken place in the situation of the country, it would like the mandate of the Mission to be adapted to the current need to strengthen institutions by focusing its activities on technical assistance adapted to all components of the judicial system.

(Signed) René **Préval**
President of the Republic of Haiti